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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

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TOPIC Winterwalde Airfield

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

25X1

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

22 June 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Between 17 May and 3 June 1954, MiG-15s and U-MiG-15s with extended landing gears practiced almost exclusively local flying of 4 or 5 minutes duration at an altitude of about 500 meters. There was usually an interval of about 10 minutes between the landing and take-off. A fire truck, a radio truck and an ambulance were parked at the take-off point. About 10 men wearing flying suits were observed at a small distance. Apparently practice flights were made. On 28 May, two MiG-15s were observed for the first time making steep banked turns at an altitude of 1,000 meters and for about 40 minutes duration. Subsequently, an element of two aircraft flying side-by-side or in echelon formation circled widely over the field. At 0900 on 1 June, an Il-10 took off and disappeared. Its landing was not observed. During the afternoon, a Po-2 and a Yak-14 landed at the field and again took off after 30 minutes.

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_____ MiG-15s and U-MiG-15s
 _____ were seen through field glasses while approaching at low level. 1

2. A local dairy increased its supply to the field by about 66 percent during May. A Soviet woman stated that the newly arrived personnel at the field had come from Wurzen. This statement was also confirmed by the proprietor of a laundry who worked for the field. 2
3. On 24 May, 12 railroad tank cars each with a capacity of 20,000 liters were shunted to the field. The tank cars came from Merseburg.
4. The radar set which had been observed south of the field in March was seen about 7 km east of the field near Lieskau in May. On 3 June a radio truck was observed on the former airfield near Gahro. 3
5. Vehicular traffic at the field involved trucks _____ 25X1
6. Between 21 May and 3 June, MiG-15s and U-MiG-15s with extended landing gears made local flights for 4 to 5 minutes at altitudes between 300 and 600 meters. The possibility of observation was limited. All of the aircraft involved in air activity taxied under their own power from the hangars to the take-off point. Trucks _____ were observed at the field. 1 25X1

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- 2 -

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1. Comment. The information on air activity by MiG-15s and U-MiG-15s at Finsterwalde airfield supports the assumption that the pilots of the ground attack division in Alt Loennewitz are being retrained on jet aircraft for the time being. The same air activity was also observed at Alt Loennewitz airfield.
2. Comment. Another source reported that 4 rail shipments left Brandis for Falkenberg and Finsterwalde between 12 and 14 May 1954 and, since that date, no Il-10 unit has been stationed at Brandis airfield. Already on 8 May, 27 Il-10s departed from Brandis airfield. The present location of these aircraft has not been determined. It is possible that the Il-10s of this division were either transferred to other units or were parked in the numerous hangars at Alt Loennewitz and Finsterwalde airfields.
3. Comment. Dabern-Gahro airfield north of Finsterwalde is a former auxiliary of the German Air Force which has not been used since the end of the war.

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